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PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR EAST TIMOR

Meeting of Parliamentarians for East Timor with UN Secretary General, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, New York, February 1994. Those present, from left to right: Lord Avebury (London), Ingela Martensson (Sweden), Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, John Dardis (Ireland) and John Langmore (Australia).

Parliamentarians for East Timor (PET) is an international organization comprised of Members of Parliament, Senate and Congress from thirty-six countries.

It is clear that Parliamentarians have an important role in keeping the issue of East Timor on the international agenda. Hence, there is a need for develop common strategies to address this issue from as many countries as possible. This is the purpose of Parliamentarians for East Timor.

Enclosed you will find the Declaration that serves as PET's founding document. You can indicate your commitment to PET's goals by signing and returning this form to PET's international secretariat as soon as possible. As a member, you will receive a bi-annual newsletter that will update you on what is happening in East Timor as well as what PET members in other countries are doing on the issue of East Timor.

We look forward to hearing from you.

WHAT IS "PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR EAST TIMOR" (PET)?

PET was formed in 1988 by Tony Lamb (Member of the House of Representatives, Australia), Satsuki Eda (Member of the Japanese Diet) and Lord Avebury (United Kingdom). The organisation is intended to act as an international forum to support the people of East Timor. Membership in PET is free of charge. PET has a Board of Directors with current representatives from Australia, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom which meets annually. The international secretariat based in Ottawa, Canada.

Aims and Objectives

Parliamentarians play a very active role in setting their own governments' foreign policy. PET was created to act as an international non-governmental organization to draw the attention of policy makers to the ongoing human rights violations against the people of East Timor. All PET members support the promotion of human rights for East Timor, which includes having their respective countries recognize East Timor's inherent right to self-determination and taking the relevant action to ensure the realization of this inherent right. A necessary part of this activity is education, which includes updates on human rights violations and keeping the membership apprised of what action other countries are taking regarding East Timor.

RECORD OF PET ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Meeting with UN Secretary General Xavier Perez de Cuellar
United Nations, New York City, 1991

PET Mission to UN in New York to meet with then UN Secretary General, Sr Xavier Perez de Cuellar, on March 25, 1991.

Meeting with UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali
United Nations, New York City, February, 1994

PET Mission to UN to meet with Boutros Boutros-Ghali, UN Secretary General. PET was represented by MPs from Ireland, UK, Sweden and Australia. Letters of support for the meeting were presented from Japan, the US and Canada.

Testifying at the UN Decolonization Hearings
United Nations, New York City, July (each year)

PET has always had a strong and respected voice at these Hearings. PET members who have spoken at the Hearings have come from Canada, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the USA. Since the founding of PET, there has always been a Member of Parliament speaking on East Timor at these Hearings.

Inter-Parliamentary Conference on East Timor
Lisbon, Portugal May 31-June 2, 1995

This was the largest gathering of Members of Parliament, Representatives and Senators ever assembled to discuss the issue of East Timor and the role for legislators. The "Lisbon Declaration" was the result of the working sessions. PET is committed to seeing the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration into practice in all of its member countries, as the

Irish Senate did on June 14, 1995. This conference provided a valuable opportunity to build PET membership as well as discuss the various options for countries to coordinate activity concerning raising the profile of East Timor.

PET Newsletter

The first issue of this newsletter was sent out to over 800 PET members and key policy makers in 36 countries. The intention is to have this newsletter become tri-lingual in nature (English, French and Portuguese). The focus of the newsletter will be on activity by national Parliaments, and at the United Nations as well as an update on activities in East Timor. The intention of such a newsletter is to both keep MPs apprised of what other MPs are doing on East Timor and coordinate action at an international level.

This abbreviated outline of some of PET's activities perhaps best summarises the coordinated international activities of PET. Within each country, however, national branches of PET are actively working on the issue of East Timor within their own Parliament. These activities are too numerous to outline here. However, the PET newsletter is an effective means for informing and uniting Parliamentarians worldwide in their action on East Timor.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR THE FUTURE

1) Testifying at the UN Decolonization Hearings (UN, New York City);
2) Lobbying governments for support of a UN presence in East Timor;
3) Resolution at 1997 UN Human Rights Commission;
4) Developing links at the UN in New York City;
5) Registration as NGO at United Nations;
6) International PET Conference to be held within the UN in the Fall of 1997;
7) Meeting with UN Secretary General in 1997;
8) International Delegation of PET members to East Timor;
9) Increased membership, particularly within Asian based countries;
10) International parliamentary support for an arms ban to Indonesia;
11) One day conference on East Timor at the European Union (while Ireland is president of the EU in the Fall of 1996), followed by an action plan regarding East Timor for action within the EU;
12) Full implementation of the "Lisbon Declaration" by national parliaments;
13) Media work, ensuring increased exposure of East Timor (this includes, but is not limited to letters and Op Ed articles by PET members to national newspapers, journals, etc.);
14) Building links with the Comissao Eventual Para Acompanhamento da Situacao em Timor Leste (Lisbon, Portugal);
15) Building links with the Commission for East Timor (Brazil);
16) Bi-annual Newsletter/Update (to become a quarterly, trilingual newsletter in English, French and Portuguese);
17) Creation of a Database with respective country policy on East Timor and Indonesia;
18) World Wide Web side regarding PET. A link to this site will be provided by the Parliamentary Human Rights Foundation via their Global Democracy Network;
19) Incorporation as a registered, non-profit organization in Canada.

PET MEMBER COUNTRIES

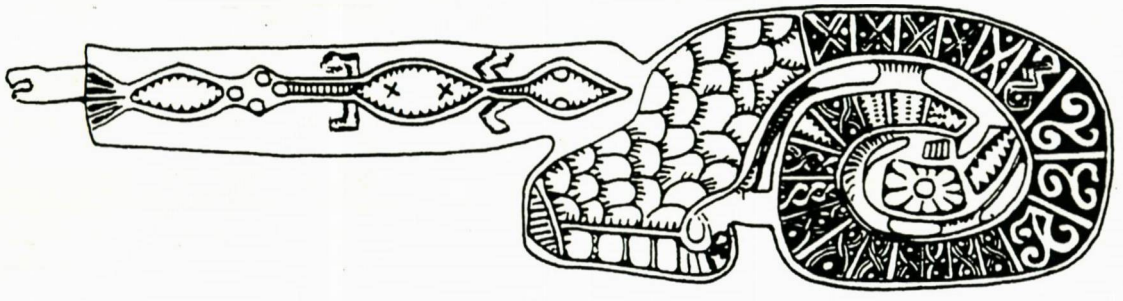
PET has members and supporters from the following countries:

1) Angola
2) Argentina
3) Australia
4) Austria
5) Belgium
6) Brazil
7) Cape Verde
8) Canada
9) Czech Republic
10) Denmark
11) France
12) Greece
13) Guinea-Bissau
14) Ireland
15) Japan
16) Lithuania
17) Luxembourg
18) Mauritius
19) Mozambique
20) Netherlands
21) New Zealand
22) Peru
23) Philippines
24) Poland
25) Portugal
26) Republic of Vanuatu
27) Romania
28) Russia
29) Sao Tome and Principe
30) Spain
31) Sweden
32) Thailand
33) United Kingdom
34) Uruguay
35) USA
36) Venezuela

For further information on Parliamentarians for East Timor, or to join, please contact:

International Secretariat
Parliamentarians for East Timor
Suite 116, 5929-L Jeanne D'Arc Blvd.
Orleans, ON
K1C 7K2
CANADA

Facsimile: 1-613-834-2021
E-Mail: pet@web.apc.org



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR EAST TIMOR

Members of PET agree to the following declaration:

I, the undersigned,

Recognising that the territory of East Timor has been illegally occupied by Indonesia since December 1975, inflicting extreme loss of life and destruction;

Recognising that Indonesia's policy to isolate East Timor restricts the International Committee of the Red Cross and other relief and development agents in their efforts to reach those in need, and denies the international community opportunities to assess the wishes of the people independently;

Condemning the human rights violations committed since 1975, as reported by Church leaders in East Timor and by independent human rights organisations;

Recognising that the East Timorese have been denied their right to self-determination;

Welcoming, finally, U.N. General Assembly Resolution 37/30 which asked the U.N. Secretary-General "to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem", and acknowledging the steps which have been taken to bring Portugal and Indonesia into negotiations;

AFFIRM that negotiations will not lead to a just settlement unless they

1. Involve representatives of the East Timorese people including those who resist the present occupation,
2. Secure an end to hostilities which prevent the people of East Timor and their representatives from contributing freely to negotiations leading to self-determination,
3. Provide internationally-acceptable conditions of access to relief and development agencies and to independent visitors, journalists and diplomats, and
4. Include an act of self-determination, which is free from interference and verified by international observers acceptable to the East Timorese people,

COMMEND all international initiatives which observe these principles, and will call upon my Government to support actively a process of negotiation conducted on such terms,

AND HEREBY DECLARE myself a member of Parliamentarians for East Timor.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

DATE _____

Please return this form by either facsimile or mail to:
Parliamentarians for East Timor
Suite 116, 5929-L Jeanne D'Arc Blvd., Orleans, ON K1C 7K2
Facsimile: 1-613-834-2021